

To the Connecticut Public Safety Committee:

I am writing this note in support of SB 132 to allow for the legalization of consumer fireworks in the state of Connecticut. I have been in the consumer fireworks business since 2007 and prior to that I was in the display fireworks business.

In the past 15 years I have seen the use of consumer fireworks expand rapidly. Sales today are more than double what they were 4 years ago. More and more states are legalizing consumer fireworks or they are loosening current restrictions on their use. They are allowing for multiple times per year when they can be sold and used and they are broadening the categories of consumer fireworks allowed.

My industry invests a lot of time and effort in safety. Multiple tiers of testing, including independent third parties, are used to insure the product is safe when used properly.

As the industry has expanded so too has my company and as more and more states bring consumer fireworks "on-line", companies like mine purchase licenses in those states and begin to market their products to local businesses. This is good for those businesses, the state and local economies and my operation as well.

Consumer fireworks are beloved by so many and I believe that states that allow them are doing a better service for their citizens than those that do not allow them. When a product is legalized it allows for marketing and communication to be sure it is used properly and safely. That is a good thing. I also know from experience that as more and more people learn how to properly use consumer fireworks, the less abuse of them there is, and that is also a good thing. I want people to safely enjoy the products I distribute nationally across this country and even internationally in some cases. Legalization and education are keys to achieving those goals.

Should Connecticut make the wise choice in legalizing consumer fireworks I would look forward to doing business with them.

I fully support SB 132 for the legalization of consumer fireworks in Connecticut.

Cordially,

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